NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLANNING

OVERVIEW

MAY 1985 REVISION

JOHN MUIR
National Historic Site

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT PLANNING OVERVIEW
MAY 1985 REVISION

JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

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CULTURAL RESOURCES OVERVIEW

Purpose of the Plan

This is a revised planning overview document for John Muir National Historic Site. It proposes research and management actions to preserve cultural resources of the historic site and to perpetuate natural resources that reflect whenever possible the historic scene. This concerns preservation of structures and artifacts, protection and perpetuation of historic vegetation and management of reintroduced orchard and plant species that existed in Muir's time. The plan documents completed research and actions which serve as a basis for the future management of the site's resources.

Park Purpose

The purpose of the Site is to serve "as a public national memorial to John Muir in recognition of his efforts as a conservationist and a crusader for national parks and reservations" (Public Law 88-547, August 31, 1964, an Act to provide for the establishment of John Muir National Historic Site). The August 25, 1916, authorizing act of the National Park Service charges the Service "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The most significant aspect of the Site is its association with the life of John Muir. After his marriage to Louie (Louisiana) Strentzel in 1880, he made his home on the fruit ranch developed by the Strentzels in Martinez, California. He devoted himself actively to the management of the ranch between 1880 and 1890. After 1890, he was able to concentrate almost entirely on his conservation efforts while day-to-day ranch management was handled by others. The house, built by his father-in-law in 1882, still stands on the Site and was the location where Muir produced many of his writings. He lived in the house from 1890 until his death in 1914.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary objective is to interpret and emphasize John Muir's influence on the American conservation and environmental movement during his lifetime and since, his role in the creation of National Parks and his contribution to American literature.

Achievement of the following sub-objectives will help to realize the primary objective.

Cultural Resources

To preserve, or restore when appropriate, historic structures and landscapes still extant.

To refine park curatorial collections.

To continue to upgrade the curatorial program in accordance with NPS museum standards.

To perpetuate historic plantings and representative orchards and vineyards known to have existed during the historic period.

To remove existing intrusions on the historic scene to the extent feasible.

To provide accurate guides for the maintenance and protection of the historic resources based upon studies and research.

Major Management Decisions

This plan serves to carry out the objectives and intent of the General Management Plan approved in 1976. An Environmental Assessment was prepared and given public review as an integral part of the GMP planning process; therefore, further NEPA compliance of this plan is unnecessary. All plans and actions that grow out of this resources management plan will be reviewed for strict compliance with NPS Management Policies and Activity Standards as well as with procedures of the President's Advisory council and Section 106.

A major objective of the GMP was attained with the passage and signature of the National Parks and Recreation Bill of 1978. This legislation provides for an increase in the development ceiling from $300,000 to $1,200,000. a study in 1981 indicated it was not feasible to acquire and manage the Muir-Strentzel family cemetery as a detached unit of John Muir NHS.

Phyllis C. Shaw — 6/21/85
Superintendent, John Muir NHS (date)

Howard W. Chapman — 7/27/85
Regional Director, Western Region (date)

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

John Muir National Historic Site encompasses 8.74 acres which were once part of the large commercial fruit ranch owned and managed by John and Louise Muir and their family in Martinez, California. Public Law 88-547 authorized the site in 1964 as a public national memorial to John Muir in recognition of his efforts as a conservationist and crusader for national parks and reservations.

The primary cultural features of the site are a 17-room Victorian house, ca. 1882; a carriage house; a six-room adobe ranch house, ca. 1849; and historic plantings, ca. 1882-1914. All the buildings have national significance. There are also plantings from the period 1915-1964 and representational plantings added by the National Park Service since 1964.

Although the entire area is characterized by dynamic plant growth, only the segment of Franklin Creek which flows through the site and its immediate banks can be considered a natural resource. This premise may be subject to question because of the possible treatment of the natural creekside environment during the historic period, ie. complete removal of ivy as seen in an 1882 photograph. However, because it is the one element within the site that can give an impression of Muir's love of wild things, it was determined through the master planning process to allow it to flourish as a native plant area rather than remove the creekside growth.

Of first importance as a historic resource and interpretive theme is the spirit of John Muir, his understanding and love of nature, and his ability to communicate this enthusiasm to others, and recognition of his conservation efforts.

The site reflects the general appearance of the area during Muir's residency and indirectly communicates impressions of Muir as a family man, rancher-businessman and author. Exhibits are programmed to emphasize Muir's role as a naturalist and conservation activist.

The composite cultural and natural resources management plan provides the framework for protecting the resources from deterioration and intrusion and provides a basis for actions that will retain and in specific instances return the resources to their appearance during the period of Muir's residency, 1880-1914.

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

John Muir National Historic Site, Western Region

Historic Structures Study and Maintenance Guide JOMU C-1

The five historic structures: a 17-room frame house with brick foundation and multiple fireplaces and chimneys; a utilitarian carriage house; a six-room adobe and frame house; a windmill; and bridge require continuing and differing preservation treatment ranging from day-to-day maintenance to major projects occurring every decade or two. Monitoring of environmental and visitor use impacts on the structures should be planned and carried out in a systematic way. Because the continuity of personnel cannot be assured, a clearly written, comprehensive guide based on professional study and judgment is needed to insure the preservation of the structures.

Duration

Six months

Impact of Non-implementation

The buildings if not properly maintained will deteriorate and require expensive restoration as time goes by.

Alternatives

No action

Personnel

A conservator assigned by Harpers Ferry Center should prepare it.

Funding

Advanced Planning

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

John Muir National Historic Site, Western Region

Muir House Exterior Rehabilitation JOMU C-2

Remove all paint from exterior surface of the Muir House. Replace all deteriorated wood in kind. Restore all windows to original operating condition. Prepare all surfaces for painting. Prime and paint.

Duration

One year

Impact of Non-implementation

The Muir House is the prime historic resource of the site. It is of national significance. If the exterior of the house is not properly maintained, the deterioration will soon be affecting the interior of the structure. The longer this project is postponed, the greater the cost of corrective will finally be.

Alternatives

No action

Personnel

Contract

Funding

Repair and Rehabilitation - Cultural

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

John Muir National Historic Site, Western Region

Historic Resources Study JOMU C-3

To provide resource data for management, planning and operations of John Muir. Local research on John Muir and the Strentzels in the local community by researching old newspapers.

Duration

Six months

Impact of Non-implementation

Without this data, potential for mistakes in maintenance and stabilization of fabric exists and confusion of historic/nonhistoric resources continue. Personal daily life of the Muirs will remain unknown for visitor education and understanding.

Alternatives

No action

Personnel

Historian from Harpers Ferry Center

Funding

Advanced Planning

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

John Muir National Historic Site, Western Region

Cyclic Maintenance of Artifacts JOMU C-4

It is proposed that every year some portion of the artifacts in the Muir House collection be examined, repaired and/or treated according to approved methods as listed in the maintenance plan. New artifacts will be accessioned and catalogued and yearly inventory completed. Funds to come from the Regional Cultural Cyclic Maintenance Program.

Duration

Yearly

Impact of Non-implementation

The collection will deteriorate and not be suitable for public exhibit. It is required that we accession and catalog each artifact and that we take a yearly inventory.

Alternatives

No action

Personnel

GS-3 Museum Aid to be hired by the park.

Funding

Curatorial Cyclic Maintenance

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

John Muir National Historic Site, Western Region

Restoration of Muir House JOMU C-5

When the revised historical furnishings plan for the Muir House is approved there will be recommendations for additional restoration to the house. One of the things being requested is carpeting for the first floor rooms. The rugs that we have are not historically suitable and it is necessary that the floor be protected from the daily foot traffic that wears the finish off. Other recommendations will be programmed when the plan is approved.

Duration

Six months

Impact of Non-implementation

The floors will continue to wear and the house will not appear as it did during the historic period.

Alternatives

No action

Personnel

Contract for carpeting

Funding

Cultural Repair and Rehabilitation

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

John Muir National Historic Site, Western Region

Prefabricated Maintenance Building JOMU C-6

There is no maintenance area in the park. The tools and tractor for the grounds are kept in a shed near the Adobe. This is an intrusion on the historic scene and it is easily broken into. We have had power tools stolen. In order to properly maintain the historic resources it is necessary to have a maintenance building where all the grounds and carpentry equipment can be located and utilized. This building could be included under the burglar alarm systems and would be secure.

Duration

Six months

Impact of Non-implementation

Without a proper maintenance building, we risk our tools being stolen again, and the shed will continue to be an intrusion on the historic scene. We lack storage space and a place for the maintenance worker to work.

Alternatives

No action and continue to use the maintenance shop at the Eugene O'Neill site, 26 miles away.

Personnel

Project would be put out on contract.

Funding

Line item

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

John Muir National Historic Site, Western Region

Preservation and Treatment of the Newman Collection JOMU C-7

The Newman collection consists of letters, photographs, and artifacts ranging from the last will and testament of Daniel Muir to ferns pressed by John Muir and used as a greeting card. There are 38 letters written by John Muir himself. These items are over 100 years old and in need of treatment and preservation.

The collection has been accessioned and is in the process of being catalogued. The letters are in mylar and placed in collection boxes and stored in the safe.

Duration

Ten years

Impact of Non-implementation

The collection if not properly conserved will irreversibly disintegrate and be lost to scholars and to the public.

Alternatives:

No action.

Personnel

Paper Conservator will be hired by purchase order on a yearly basis.

Funding

Curatorial Cyclic Maintenance

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

John Muir National Historic Site, Western Region

Repoint Brick Foundation - Muir House JOMU C-8

The brick foundation of the Muir House is 102 years old. The mortar between the bricks that support the house has turned to sand and fallen out. It is necessary to reset these bricks that form the foundation all around the perimeter of the house.

The bricks are being monitored to detect any shifting of the load upon the bearing walls.

Duration

One year

Impact of Non-implementation

There is a danger of losing a great deal of historic fabric if any of the brick foundation collapses under one of the load bearing walls.

Alternatives:

No action

Personnel

The project would go out on contract.

Funding

Cultural Repair and Rehabilitation

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

John Muir National Historic Site, Western Region

Collection Management Plan JOMU C-9

Management of the collection of over 4800 items including archeological, ethnological, and historical material as well as natural history specimens is an on-going concern with NPS policy requirements. The Collections Management Plan, a site-specific document, would guide the on-site staff in the day-to-day development, management, and preservation of the park collection. Currently the overall management of the collection is inadequate in some regards (e.g. accountability) and not all National Park Service standards and other policy requirements are being met (e.g. annual inventories). Conservation and preservation treatments are an area of vital concern that has not been adequately addressed. In addition, storage for these collections is inadequate.

Alternatives

No Action - this would result in a continuation of the status quo with possibly serious deterioration of the collection. The park would continue to fail to meet those standards outlined in NPS-28.

Prepare a Collections Management Plan - A Collections Management Plan produced from an on-site survey by National Park Service professionals or outside consultants under contract would analyze priorities and treatments for the collection and ensure solid curatorial practices in accordance with National Park Service policy. This plan should be reviewed and updated every five years.

Recommended Course of Action

Prepare a Collections Management Plan - A Collections Management Plan, written after an on-site visit to the park, would provide guidance to park staff in the area of caring for the collection. The plan would include a brief history of the collection and an overview of the present collection, a current Scope of Collections Statement and recommended changes to the statement; current status and recommendations regarding museum records; analysis of current museum storage and a plan for up-grading it; current status (environment and maintenance) of museum exhibits and/or furnished structures and recommendations for improvement; current status and recommendations for museum security; current status and recommendations for museum staffing; and future planning/sources of funding.

Personnel

On-site visitation by professionals would require in-put of time from the park staff. Visit would take no longer than one week.

Funding

Other than personal services: $5000.00

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

John Muir National Historic Site, Western Region

Reroof Muir House - Shingles C-10

The shingle roof on the Muir House has deteriorated and when it rains, the water runs down the walls and leaks in through the roof. It is necessary to replace the roof before the plaster on the ceilings fall.

Now, buckets are placed under the leaks and the roof is monitored for new leaks.

Duration

One year

Impact of Non-implementation

If the roof is not replaced, more leaks will develop and great amounts of historic fabric will be lost.

Alternatives:

No action

Personnel

The project would go out on a contract.

Funding

Cultural Cyclic Maintenance

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

Replace Muir House Gutters JOMU C-11

The redwood gutters on the Muir House are 102 years old. They are deteriorating and need to be replaced.

Duration

One year

Impact on Non-implementation

There is a danger of losing a great deal of historic fabric if there are no gutters on the roof.

Alternatives:

No action

Personnel

Project will go out on contract.

Funding

Cultural Cyclic Maintenance

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

Reroof Adobe - shingles JOMU C-12

The shingles on the main roof of the Martinez Adobe are 21 years old. They are deteriorating and need to be replaced.

Roof is being monitored for leaks, and if leaks develop buckets will be placed in rooms.

Duration

One year

Impact of Non-implementation

There is a danger of losing a great deal of historic fabric if roof develops a lot of leaks.

Alternative:

No action

Personnel

Project would go out on contract.

Funding

Cultural Cyclic Maintenance

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT STATEMENT

John Muir National Historic Site, Western Region

Research Pomology in Muir's Day JOMU C-13

In accordance with the Interpretive Prospectus, it is planned to use the adobe and surrounding grounds to interpret pomology as it was done in Muir's day. Research must be done to discover the type of farm equipment that is needed and how it can best be demonstrated.

Duration

One year

Impact of Non-implementation

We will be unable to interpret the ten years of Muir's life that he spent growing fruit and managing the ranch.

Alternatives

No action

Personnel

Historian/Park Volunteers

Funding

VIP funds

NATURAL RESOURCES RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Water Resources Management Plan The U.S. Geological Survey is working on a study of Franklin Creek. When we have the final report, we will implement its recommendations.

N-1
Orchard Management Plan The orchard management plan has been completed together with a section on integrated pest management. We are starting to implement these practices and can already see healthier looking orchard trees. As we continue to work with the plan and document our findings the plan will be revised and updated. We are requesting cyclic maintenance funds for three years to implement and monitor the plan.

Native Plant Creekside Area Native plants have been reintroduced along Franklin Creek. The exotic plants that have been identified by the report of William E. Davis, Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of California at Davis, May 1981, are being removed.

RELATIONSHIP OF PROPOSALS TO OTHER PROJECTS AND ACTIONS

Since this area is an historic site, any project relates to the cultural resources whether as an intrusion to the historic scene or in terms of a direct impact on the area.

The ongoing Site Plan when finished will locate the additional staff parking, the service road, the new maintenance facility, as well as the extended visitor center and administrative complex.

These are the only projects not included in this proposal. The visual intrusion of this may be mitigated by design, but it will take away a little from the historic integrity of the site.

DOCUMENTATION OF PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED PLANS AND ACTIONS

1963 Feasibility Report, John Muir Home and Vicente Martinez Adobe by John Hussey, et. al.

1966 Historic Structures Report, John Muir House Part I, John Muir National Historic Site, by John Jensen.

1967 Archeological Survey, John Muir National Historic Site, by Karen Lundquist and Marion Riggs.

1968 Historic Structures Report, Part II John Muir House, John Muir National Historic Site, by John E. Jensen and A. Lewis Koue.

1969 Historic Structures Report, Part I, Carriage House, John Muir National Historic Site, by John E. Jensen and A. Lewis Koue.

1971 The Home of John Muir Alhambra Valley Furnishings Plan, by Sally Johnson Ketchem.

1976 Master Plan 1975

1976 Interpretive Prospectus

1978 Historic Trees of John Muir National Historic Site

1980 Feasibility Study, John Muir Gravesite

COMPLETED ACTIONS AFFECTING CULTURAL RESOURCES

1967 Fire Alarm System Installation; Grounds Improvement

1967 Bridge Reconstruction, Fencing and Utilities

1969 Restoration of Exterior of John Muir House

IMPLEMENTATION

1974 - present Maintenance Proposal for Interior Refurbishment of John Muir Home

1975 Construction of Water LIne for Fire Protection

1975 Stabilization of Martinez Adobe, Second Floor and South Porch. Description and Collection of Historic Artifacts beneath porch (see Kelly 1980).

1976 Construction of Sewer Line for Martinez Adobe

1976 Fumigation and Replanting of Vineyard

1976 Removal of Outhouse

1977 Fumigation of Martinez Adobe

1977 Partial Re-roofing of Martinez Adobe

1977 Restore Front Porch Stairs of Muir House

1977 Repainting of Martinez Adobe

1978 Repainting of John Muir House

1978 Construction of Windmill Tower and Rehabilitation of Mill Head

1978 Installation of Porch Lift to Provide Wheelchair Access to John Muir House

1979 Restoration of John Muir's Bedroom

1980 Restoration of John Muir's Study

1980 Archeological Investigations Under the South Porch, Martinez Adobe, John Muir Historic Site, Martinez, California, by Roger E. Kelly

1981 Sensitivity Map for Archeological Resources, John Muir Historic Site, by Roger E. Kelly

1981 Natural Area Management Plan, completed by William Davis

1982 Repaint Muir House

1982 Resurface Trails

1983 Move and Restore Carriage House

1983 Repaint Martinez Adobe

1983 Replace rolled roofing on back addition to Adobe

1983 Repair second floor balcony of Adobe

1983 Repair Windmill and adapt it to water orchard

1983 Replace underground gutter drains on East Side Muir House

1984 Repaint Adobe interior

1984 Installation of Handicap Trail to Muir House

1984 Victorian Garden planted by Muir House

1984 Replaster basement ceiling over stairs and second floor wall in hall

1984 Installation of native plants area

1984 University at Davis reproducing fig trees for site

1985 Orchard Management Plan complete

1985 Furnace replaced at Muir House

1985 Matting installed on first and second floor hallways in Muir House

1985 Additional fire and intrusion alarms installed in Muir House, Adobe, and Carriage House

MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

PROJECT TITLE	STATUS
Research Pomology in John Muir's Day	in progress in park

ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

Cyclic Maintenance of Artifacts	WR Cyclic Maintenance
Comprehensive Site Plan	WR Planning Underway

Programming Sheet

Proj No.	Project Title	Proj Type 1/	RMP Pri	Park Pri	10-237 No.	10-238 No.	85 Five Year Program Costs (in $1000) and Fund Sources 2/ Yr 1 Funded/New	86 Yr 2 Funded/New	87 Yr 3 Funded/New	88 Yr 4 Funded/New	89 Yr 5 Funded/New
C-1	Historic Structures Study & Maintenance Guide.	S	9	9.5		79 800				00 ?	
C-2	Muir House Exterior Rehabilitation	F	2	.5		85 152 84 136		00 125		00 ?	
C-3	Historic Resources Study	S	10	10							00 ?
C-4	Cyclic Maintenance of Artifacts	F	1.5	1	83 29		4(CM) 00	5 (CM) 00	5 (CM) 00	5 (CM) 00	5(CM) 00
C-5	Recarpet Muir House	F	6	6		84 142				00 20	
C-6	Prefab Maintenance Bldg.	F	5	5		84 132			CC(LI) 75		
C-7	Preservation & Treatment of Newman Collection	F	2.5	2	83 29	—		00 (CM) 1.5	00 (CM) 1.5	00(CM) 1.5	CC(CM) 1.5
C-8	Repoint Brick Foundation Muir House	F	1	1.5		84 147		00 25			
C-9	Collection Mgt. Plan	S	7	8.5		84 150				00 5	
C-10	Reroof Muir House Shingles	F	3	3	83 29			00 9 (CM)			
C-11	Replace Muir House Gutters	F	3.5	4	83 29			00 3 (CM)			
C-12	Reroof Adobe Shingles	F	4	5.5	83 29			00 5 (CM)			

Notes: 1/ Natural Resources project types are: Mit - Mitigation, Mon - Monitoring, Res - Research

2/ Fund Sources should be shown in parenthesis after costs as follows: PB - Park Base, RNR - Regionwide Natural Resources Base, NRP - Servicewide Natural Resource Preservation Account, AQ - Servicewide Air Quality Account, AP - Servicewide Acid Precipitation Account, WR - Servicewide Water Resources Account LI-Line Item, CM-Cultural Resources Cyclic Maintenance

Park:

Programming Sheet

Proj No.	Project Title	Proj Type	RMP Pri	Park Pri	10-237 No.	10-238 No.	Five Year Program Costs (in $1000) and Fund Sources Yr 1 Funded/New	Yr 2 Funded/New	Yr 3 Funded/New	Yr 4 Funded/New	Yr 5 Funded/New
N-1	Implement Orchard Mgt. Plan	Mon.	1	2	050		00 / 5	00 / 5	00 / 5		